

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD HEARING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
APRIL 21, 2020**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

PUBLIC HEARING ON RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE CLEAN WATER ACT
SECTION 303(d) LIST FOR WATERS IN THE NORTH COAST REGION: 2018
INTEGRATED REPORT

DISCUSSION

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires each state to identify waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards and to prioritize those waters for total maximum daily load development, unless other corrective action is appropriate (commonly referred to as the “303(d) list”). Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act requires each state to report on the overall condition of its surface waterbodies (commonly referred to as the “305(b) report”). California combines its 303(d) lists and 305(b) reports into a single “California Integrated Report.”

For the 2018 Integrated Report, the State Water Board is administering the listing process on behalf of the Regional Water Quality Control Board for the North Coast for all waters within the region in accordance with section 6.2 of the Water Quality Control Policy for Developing California’s Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List (“Listing Policy”). To administer the listing process, the State Water Board will receive written comments, hold a hearing to receive oral comments, and respond to all comments. The State Water Board will not be taking any action at the hearing.

For the 2018 listing cycle, pollutant data from 179 different waterbody segments in the North Coast Region were evaluated for attainment of applicable water quality standards. Data for more than one pollutant were available for many waterbodies, resulting in a total 2,792 waterbody-pollutant combinations being assessed. Based on these assessments, a total of 42 waterbody-pollutant combinations are recommended for listing as impaired on the 303(d) list. These recommended listings are based on bacteria, metals and other pollutants measured at levels exceeding acceptable limits. One waterbody-pollutant combination is being recommended for delisting. An existing temperature impairment decision for the Redwood Creek watershed is being updated as four of its tributaries are now meeting standards for temperature. As a result, the listing decision for the Redwood Creek watershed is being updated to reflect that the four tributaries are no longer impaired for temperature. For more information on the draft recommended North Coast Region 303(d) listings, see the Draft Staff Report for the 2018 Integrated Report and Appendices, available on the Surface Water Quality Assessment website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/

The 303(d) list requires approval by the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”) and approval by United States Environmental Protection Agency (“U.S. EPA”). Neither agency takes formal approval action on the 305(b) report, which is an informational document that characterizes the state’s general water quality conditions. Generally, the State Water Board does not solicit comments or respond to comments pertaining to the 305(b) portion of the California Integrated Report.

At a subsequent board meeting, and after providing written responses to all timely received comments made at the hearing, the State Water Board will consider approving the proposed 303(d) list for the North Coast Region. After approving the 303(d) list for the North Coast Region, the State Water Board will then consolidate that list without further consideration into the 2018 California Integrated Report submitted to U.S. EPA.

POLICY ISSUE

This is a hearing for the State Water Board to receive oral comment pertaining to the proposed Clean Water Act section 303(d) listing and delisting recommendations for waterbodies in the North Coast Region. The scope of this item will be limited to listing and delisting recommendations for waterbodies in the North Coast Region.

FISCAL IMPACT

The State Water Board will not be taking any action at the hearing; therefore there will be no fiscal impact.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

The focus of the hearing is listing and delisting recommendations in the North Coast Region. However, as there will be no State Water Board action regarding the listing and delisting recommendations for waterbodies in the North Coast Region during this hearing, there will be no impact to the North Coast Regional Water Board at this time. There are no impacts to other Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No staff recommendation is made at this time; the State Water Board will receive oral comment but not take any action at the hearing.